

Thursday 15th July

Edinburgh is still a bit wet. Rod Stewart is in a city centre hotel drying out still – the best tweet of the night last night was that he rearranged one of his all time favourites....'Do you think I'm Soggy?'

Poor Rod has another night on the wet stage in front of him this evening. Simply Red must be standing in the wings hoping that the weather will clear, but according to the 5 day forecast there may still be a lot of wet, wet, wet to come over the next few days.

[The Scotsman](#) reports that Gordon Dewar the embattled head of Edinburgh airport has answered the challenges to the proposed £1 charge for kiss 'n fly flights. Dewar has written an open letter to business leaders.

Incidentally there will be a place for free drop-offs – at the long stay car park. So then your beloved has to get on the short bus ride to the terminal building. The Scottish Ministers meanwhile say that this is a matter for the airport and they want everyone to get on public transport. Pity then that there are still some areas where people cannot take public transport to the airport. People in West Lothian for example some of whom live within 15 minutes of the airport by car simply do not have the public transport alternative.

There is also the story [about double-decking the dead in some cemeteries](#). The Reporter has some first hand experience of this and is already acquainted with the fact that there are some cemeteries in Scotland where this practice has already been in place for quite some time.... There is a shortage of land. So, is it not time we looked more seriously at alternatives? There are of course some religious objections to cremation or other newer ways of disposal, but that apart do we all have a right to occupy a space on the earth after our

demise? Or should we leave the earth unencumbered for its future inhabitants?

We have to admit that we rather missed this story the first time round. We had thought that the Pope's visit was being restricted to Bellahouston Park in Glasgow, but it seems according to [The Scotsman](#) that he is indeed going to parade along the streets of Edinburgh in his Popemobile. Well we hope he has good suspension to cope with all the potholes..... Pity he can't use the tram that is sitting there really isn't it?

Reform Scotland the Scottish think tank type organisation has started a really good round up of news in the newspapers on its website. You can access it [here!](#)

And we would commend to you [this lovely blog by Pauline](#) about her trip round the world with Shirley....the bicycle.... Pauline has just left Portobello only last week and is already in Guise, France. Well worth reading! And all in aid of Oxfam.